(b) if so, whether objections were raised for making available the maps, on the grounds that they were secret documents and their placement on the website to invite technical opinions about feasibility of the dream project would involve security problems; and

(c) if so, how the problems and related objections have been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) In connection with launching of website on interlinking of rivers, Ministry of Defence was approached for security clearance to place the digitized maps of the proposals on the website and also their use for other purposes such as preparation of tender documents, technical reports and other project related activities. Ministry of Defence suggested to carry out certain corrections in the maps and desired that the coast line and international boundary of India would need to be authenticated by the Director, Map Publications, Survey of India, Dehradun before printing. In this regard, Survey of India has suggested certain modifications to be attended to in the maps before considering the same for authentication.

Availability of water

787. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the World Water Development Report, India is ranked 133rd in a list of 180 countries in its ability to make water available for its population;

(b) if so, what are Government's views on this matter; and

(c) the action plan to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per the "United Nations World Water Development Report—Water for People, Water for Life', India has been shown at 133rd ranking among 180 countries in the world in the table for "water availability per person per year".

(b) and (c) It appears that the countries of the world have been listed in the table in descending order of the "water availability per capita per year" which shows the figure of 1880 cubic metre per capita

per year in respect of India. This figure matches reasonably with 1820 cubic metre per capita per year as worked out with the population based on 2001 census.

Repair of damaged and weak bunds of rivers in Assam

788. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what strategy has been worked out by Government for repairing the damaged and the weak bunds to rivers in Assam;

(b) whether Government have offered money and suggested measures to fight flood in the coming year;

(c) if so, what are details of the plans; and

(d) if not, th reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Flood Management including river erosion being a state subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The Brahmaputra Board constituted in 1982 under an act of Parliament has prepared Master Plans for water resources management in Brahmaputra and Barak Basins. These Master Plans were forwarded to the State Governments for formulating schemes for implementation after detailed investigations.

(b) and (c) For taking up critical flood control and anti-erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley (in the North-Eastern States including Assam, Sikkim and North Bengal) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 166.68 crore has been formulated for implementation during Tenth Fiver Year Plan.

Further, Brahmaputra Board has taken up the execution on Pagladiya Dam Project in Nalbari district of Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 542.90 crore and the Harang Drainage Development scheme with an estimated cost of Rs. 30.49 crore in Cachar district of Assam. Also, during Tenth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 42.00 crore has been provided for taking up critical flood control/anti-erosion schemes in North-Eastern States including Assam.

(d) Does not arise.